



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application of )  
James et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Application No.: 10/660,338 ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Filed: September 10, 2003 ) Confirmation No.: Unassigned  
For: Bentonite Nodules )

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

All of the listed documents were previously made of record in prior Application Serial No. 09/964,930, filed September 26, 2001, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the listed documents, except those documents which were previously made of record in the prior application, is enclosed.

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later. Since the documents are being filed within the time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) no fee or statement is required.

To assist the Examiner, the listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner-initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

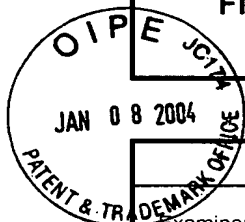
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Substitute for forms 1449A/PTO &amp; 1449B/PTO

ATTORNEY'S DKT NO.  
005950-843APPLICATION NO.  
10/660,338**FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**APPLICANT  
James, et al.FILING DATE  
September 10, 2003GROUP  
UNASSIGNED**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
	47,410		Fraser	04/1865
	2,609,880		Dyer	09/09/1952
	2,634,098		Armentrout	04/1953
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	2,935,472		Klaas, et al.	05/1960
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	5,195,583		Toom et al.	02/23/1993
	5,611,400		James et al.	03/18/1997
	5,657,822		James et al.	08/19/1997
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)	Translation Yes	No

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
	Bourgoyne, A., et al., "Sustained Casing Pressure in Offshore Producing Wells", <i>OTC 11029</i> , pp. 1-13, (5/1999).
	Chevron Environmental Management Co., "Coalinga Abandonment Pilot: Technical Report on the Utilization of Sodium Bentonite in the Abandonment of Oil Fields"(7/2000).
	Daemen, J., et al., "Bentonite as a Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Shaft Sealing Material", <i>Contractor Report SAND 96-1968</i> Unlimited Release UC-721, (12/1996).
	Daemen, J., Letter to M. James re: Plugging Depleted Oil Wells, (3/22/1998).
	DeGroot, D., "Comments on Petro-Plug's Proposed Procedure for Sealing Abandoned Oil Wells", <i>Report Prepared for M. James, UMASS at Amhers</i> , (3/14/1998).
	DeGroot, D., et al., "Evaluation of Dispersion Characteristics of Bentonite with Application to Design of Containment Transport Barriers", <i>4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Envir. Geotech. Global Sustainable Dev.</i> , Boston Mass (8.1998).
	Ehlers, "Report of Pressure Tests, Plugging Simulations", <i>Accord Technologies</i> , pp. 1-10, (3/1999).
	Ehlers, "Report of Well Test", <i>Accord Group, Inc.</i> , (10/27/1997).
	Ehlers, GC, for the Accord Group Inc., Technical Note, (10/29/1997).

Substitute for forms 1449A/PTO &amp; 1449B/PTO

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	Goodwin, et al., "Cement Sheath Stress Failure", <i>SPE Publication No. 20453</i> , Halliburton Services (1990).
	James, M., "Using Coarse Ground Bentonite to Plug Abandoned Holes", <i>WWJ</i> , (6/1996).
	Kenney, et al., "Hydraulic Conductivity of Compacted Bentonite-Sand Mixtures", <i>Canadian Geotech. J.</i> , Vol. 29, No. 3, (6/1992).
	Lamborn, D., Letter to Gordon Fassett at the Pittsburg & Midgway Coal Mining Co. Re: Cancellation of Permit UW43569 (1/23/1997)
	Odell, R., Letter to J. James Re: In Situ Uranium Drill Holes, (8/22/1999).
	Ogden & Ruff, "Report-Axial Shear Strength Testing of Bentonite Water Well Annulus Seals", <i>Colo. State Univ. Dept of Civ. Eng.</i> , (Fall 1989).
	Petro-Plug: Wellborne Plug Stage Pressure Analysis Project 2 pages (no date).
	RMOTC, "Bentonite Well Plugging Technique", <i>Field Applications</i> , (2/1998).
	Ruhl & Daniel, "Geosynthetic Clay Liners Permeated with Chemical Solutions and Leachates", <i>J. of Geotech. &amp; Geoenv. Eng.</i> , pp. 369-381, (4/1997).
	Sessions, LA, "Plugging of C-1 & C-2 Monitor Wells-I Area", <i>Memorandum to GA Johnson</i> , (1/14/1997).
	Thornhill, J., <u>Results of USEPA's Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center's Integrity Testing Facility Near Ada, Oklahoma</u> , Letter and Report to M. James, pp. 44-47, (1/2000).
	Towler & Ehlers, "Friction Factors for Hydrated Bentonite Plugs", <i>SPE Publication No. 38347</i> , pp. 111-116, (5/1997).
	Turner, C., "Letter of Support", to Maurice Turner, pp. 1-11, (1/8/1998).
	Tyler, "Petro-Plugging Project Test Results", <i>RMOTC</i> , (1/5/1998).
	Wheaton, et al., "Experiments in Subsurface Applications of Bentonite in Montana", <i>Montana Bureau of Mines Report: Memoir No. 66</i> , (1994).

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. **SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.